

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated October 20, 2004, having a shortened statutory period set to expire January 20, 2005. Claims 1, 7, 9, 15, 21 and 25 are amended and claims 6, 14 and 24 are cancelled. Claims 1-5, 7-13, 15-23 and 25 are now pending.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

In paragraph 7 of the present Office Action, Claims 6-7, 14-15 and 24-25 have been deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. While Applicants continue to traverse all rejections, in an effort to move the pending claims to allowance, the suggested amendments have been made in the present paper. As such, the features of Claim 6 are incorporated into base Claim 1, the original features of base Claim 1 are incorporated into newly independent Claim 7, the features of Claim 14 are incorporated into base Claim 9, the original features of base Claim 9 are incorporated into newly independent Claim 15, the features of Claim 24 are incorporated into base Claim 21, and the original features of base Claim 21 are incorporated into newly independent Claim 25.

CONCLUSION

Having now complied with the Examiner's suggestions, Applicants respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The present amendment includes three new independent claims, for which a fee of **\$264.00** is due. Enclosed is a check in the amount of **\$264.00** to cover this fee.

No extension of time for this response is believed to be necessary. However, in the event an extension of time is required, that extension of time is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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